

What's New in the MPDC

OCTOBER 28, 2002

CHIEF RAMSEY THANKS COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORT DURING SNIPER SHOOTING INVESTIGATION

Following the announcement that two suspects had been apprehended and a weapon recovered in the recent sniper shootings in Maryland, Virginia and DC, Chief Ramsey thanked the community – in DC and throughout the region and nation – for its information and support during the three-week-long investigation. “Like other law enforcement leaders in the region, I had said all along that this case would be solved with information from the public. And that prediction certainly came true,” Ramsey said. Thursday evening, the multi-agency Task Force investigating the sniper shootings announced that two suspects - one adult and one juvenile - had been apprehended.

The MPDC needs public support and information on other homicides and serious crimes in DC. The Department offers a \$10,000 reward leading to a conviction in any unsolved homicide in DC, and the Crime Solvers program provides rewards of up to \$1,000 in other cases. Learn more, and view some of DC's Most Wanted:
mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/solvers.shtm

In a display of their appreciation for police efforts during the sniper shootings, children from Amidon Elementary and Jefferson Junior High presented Chief Ramsey on Friday with posters, cards, plants and other tokens of their support. The MPDC had increased patrols in and around the schools for the past three weeks, so that parents and children could feel more comfortable going to school.

Officials also announced that a weapon recovered from the suspects' vehicle had been linked by forensic evidence with 11 of the sniper shootings, including the October 3 homicide of Pascal Charlot at the corner of Georgia Avenue and Kalmia Road, NW. As of Friday afternoon, charges against the two suspects were pending. Chief Ramsey emphasized that the investigation into the shootings continues, and anyone with information pertaining to these incidents or the suspects is still encouraged to call the Task Force at (888) 324-9800.

TIPS FOR ENJOYING A SAFE AND HAPPY HALLOWEEN

With the resolution of the sniper shooting case, many DC residents are expected to be out this Thursday for Halloween. To help ensure a safe and happy Halloween for our children and communities, the MPDC, in conjunction with DC Action for Children, offers a number of safety tips. First and foremost, children are urged to have a safe, bright, reflective and flame-retardant costume. When out in the community, children are reminded to stay in familiar areas, walk on the sidewalk, cross at corners and use flashlights. Most importantly, children should never go into peoples' homes or get into the vehicles of strangers. And, of course, children should not eat any of their candy until it has been carefully inspected by a parent or other responsible adult. Anyone

Halloween can be even deadlier than New Year's Eve when it comes to drunk driving. This Halloween, the SoberRide program will once again offer free cab rides home for Halloween revelers who have had too much to drink. Get more details on the program at:
www.soberride.com/programs_adult1.html

who suspects that Halloween goods have been tampered with should immediately call police at 9-1-1. For more Halloween safety tips, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/halloweensafety.shtm

Several MPDC police districts will be participating in or hosting Halloween activities this year. For information on events in your community, go to the District Calendar page for your police district. Access it at:
mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/districts.shtm

The MPDC is preparing for another large crowd in Georgetown on Halloween evening. Additional police patrols will be on hand to help keep the crowds orderly and peaceful. The MPDC will also be conducting a sobriety checkpoint that evening. For more information on drinking and driving in DC, go to:
mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/duihome.shtm

CHIEF RAMSEY TESTIFIES ON PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY REFORM AMENDMENT ACT

Chief Ramsey this past week testified before the DC Council's Committee on the Judiciary concerning the Omnibus Public Safety Agency Reform Amendment Act of 2002 (Bill 14-610), a bill that would make various changes in personnel and administrative policies within the MPDC and the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services. Ramsey praised the Committee for its support in enacting earlier reforms, including use-of-force policies, hiring and training standards, and community policing. He also indicated that the new legislation would help continue the overall reform program the Chief began more than four years ago. In his testimony, Ramsey did outline a number of suggested revisions that "will make a good piece of legislation even better." The Chief's testimony touched on the issues of Command Staff promotions, Training and Standards Board responsibilities, discipline, limited-duty personnel, physical standards for police officers and the hiring of retired police officers in civilian positions. Read the Chief's entire statement before the Committee at:

mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2002/10/102402.shtm

NEW USE-OF-FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED

The number of times that MPDC officers intentionally fired their service weapons at people, and the number of individuals struck and injured, have both declined this year, according to new statistics from the MPDC's Civil Rights and Force Investigation Division. Through the first nine months of the year, officers had fired at 15 individuals, compared with 18 during the same period of 2001. The number of fatalities in officer-involved shootings has risen from three to four, although the number of people injured declined from 10 to three. Overall firearm discharges, including accidental shootings and shootings at animals, have declined from 33 in 2001 to 27 in 2002. The total number of rounds fired by MPDC officers has dropped by nearly 50 percent this year, from 174 to 88. The MPDC is regularly publishing detailed statistics on use of force as part of the Department's 2001 Memorandum of Agreement with the US Department of Justice. Access the latest use-of-deadly-force statistics on the Web at:

The MPDC has also published the latest statistics on officers' use of less-than-lethal force, including ASP baton, OC spray and canines. Access those data for the first nine months of 2002 at:

mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/FIT_ltl_1002.pdf

mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/FIT_useofforce_1002.pdf

NEWS & NOTES

- A Joint Public Oversight Hearing on District of Columbia Preparedness will be held on Monday, October 28, 2002, at 10 am in the Wilson Building. Assistant Chief Al Broadbent is scheduled to testify on the MPDC's recent progress in improving planning and coordination, equipment, training and technology.
- Reminder: The MPDC's third annual Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2002, at 7 pm, in DAR Constitution Hall. This free event honors police officers, civilian employees and community members who have made a difference in fighting crime and building safer neighborhoods. For more information, contact Michael D. Scott in the MPDC at (202) 727-4771.

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

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